

Barrack Road Trolley Service

Councillors criticise Bournemouth

C.T. November 14, 1942

MEMBERS of the Christchurch Council have criticised the Bournemouth Transport Department for using material for the extension of the trolley bus route along Barrack Road, at a time when the nation needed metal so badly for war purposes.

"It is a most extraordinary position," said Councillor Laphorne, who is Chairman of the Salvage Sub-Committee, when the matter was discussed last Monday, "that Bournemouth should use all this iron and copper at the present time. I cannot understand now they have the temerity to appeal to the public for their scrap when they do such a thing."

What was the use, continued Councillor Laphorne, of arguing that Bournemouth had the material in stock? "Why didn't they surrender it, bearing in mind the shortage of copper and the fact that the American Government has recalled thousands of men to return to work in the copper mines?"

It was pointed out by the Mayor that higher authorities had given Bournemouth permission for the work to be carried out. Of what use was it, then, to say that Bournemouth should not have used the material they had in stock? Whether it was right to use it or whether it should be put into the melting pot he was not prepared to argue.

The committee (which consisted of Alderman Barnes, Alderman Galton, Councillor Laphorne and himself ex officio) continued his Worship, had endeavoured to get the best possible bargain when it met Bournemouth representatives. One concession was that the buses should turn left into the town at the Stour Road crossing.

Alderman Tucker: "Were all these points, such as salvage, etc., brought up when you met the Bournemouth representatives?"

The Mayor: "Yes, but what could be done to prevent Bournemouth proceeding?" The requirements of the public for better transport facilities must be taken into account besides the question of material."

Councillor Northover then asked whether the question of the maintenance of the road surface in Bargates (a non-county road) had been borne in mind.

At this point Councillor Pawley rose to give his views on the subject. "It is an age of movement; he said "It is all a question of movement. We must keep the people moving." Councillor Pawley sat down.

A concise but comprehensive summary of the position was then given by Alderman Barnes.

"There will be no change in the petrol service," he said, "there will be three additional buses per hour along Barrack Road turning left into the town at the Stour Road crossing. There will only be a twenty minute service along Stour Road to Tuckton Bridge except during rush hours. The service between Tuckton and the Priory is being curtailed because it is the least paying part of the whole route. There will be no change in the fares and Bournemouth will make another effort to get the extra footpath built across the Barrack Road railway bridge."

"You are very exact, Alderman Barnes," commented the Mayor very curtly.

Councillor Watson asked whether he had joined the Council or a coroner's enquiry. The matter had already been dealt with and was clear from the minutes, even to him—a newcomer. He proposed that the Council should proceed with the next business, which the Council did.